

Amendments to the Claims:

Please CANCEL Claims 17 and 18, without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein.

Please AMEND Claims 1 through 6, 13, and 16, as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A motion image coding apparatus which codes a motion image by executing motion compensation for frame data to be coded by referring to a plurality of frame data in the motion image, comprising:

~~a detecting means for detecting~~ unit that detects a motion of an imaging device;

a plurality of storage ~~means for storing said~~ units that stores the plurality of frame data;

a determination unit that determines a number of reference frames to be referred when frame data to be coded is coded, wherein, in a case that motion information detected by said detecting unit is larger than a predetermined value, the number of reference frames is less than the number of reference frames in a case that motion information is equal or to smaller than the predetermined value;

~~a selecting means for selecting;~~ unit that selects, from said plurality of storage ~~means, on the basis of motion information detected by said detecting means, storage means for storing reference frame data to be referred to when the frame data to be coded is coded;~~ units, storage units where frame data is stored, according to the number of reference frames determined by said determination unit;

~~an estimating means for estimating~~ unit that estimates a motion vector on the basis of the ~~reference~~ frame data stored in said ~~the~~ storage ~~means~~ units selected by said selecting ~~means~~ units and the frame data to be coded;

~~a coding means for coding the unit that codes~~ frame data to be coded by using the motion vector estimated by said estimating ~~means;~~ unit; and

~~an output means for outputting unit that outputs~~ the coded data which is coded by said coding ~~means;~~ unit.

2. (Currently Amended) The motion image coding apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said detecting ~~means~~ unit detects the motion of said imaging device on the basis of a motion image sensed by said imaging device.

3. (Currently Amended) The motion image coding apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said selecting ~~means~~ unit comprises ~~a control means for controlling unit that controls~~ write/read and power supply to said plurality of storage ~~units,~~ means on the basis of the motion information detected by said detecting means according to the number of reference frames determined by said determination unit.

4. (Currently Amended) The motion image coding apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising ~~a setting means for setting unit that sets~~ an image sensing mode of said imaging device,

wherein said selecting ~~means~~ unit comprises ~~a control means for controlling unit that controls~~ write/read and power supply to said plurality of storage ~~means~~ units on the basis of the image sensing mode set by said setting ~~means;~~ unit.

5. (Currently Amended) The motion image coding apparatus according to claim 3 or 4, wherein said control ~~means~~ unit stops power supply to storage ~~means~~ units not selected by said selecting ~~means~~; unit.

6. (Currently Amended) The motion image coding apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a search range control ~~means for controlling unit that controls~~ a motion vector search range of said estimating means unit on the basis of the motion image detected by said detecting ~~means~~; unit.

Claims 7 through 12 (Cancelled).

13. (Currently Amended) A control method of a motion image coding apparatus which comprises a plurality of storage units for storing a plurality of frame data in a motion image, and codes the motion image by executing motion compensation for frame data to be coded by referring to frame data stored in the plurality of storage units, comprising:

a detection step of detecting a motion of an imaging device;

a determination step of determining a number of reference frames to be referred when frame data to be coded is coded, wherein, in a case that motion information detected by said detection step is larger than a predetermined value, the number of reference frames is less than the number of reference frames in a case that motion information is equal or to smaller than the predetermined value;

a selection step of selecting, from the plurality of storage units, ~~on the basis of motion information detected in the detection step,~~ a storage unit for storing reference frame data to be referred to when the frame data to be coded is coded; storage units where frame data is stored, according to the number of reference frames determined by said determination step;

an estimation step of estimating a motion vector on the basis of ~~the reference~~ frame data stored in the ~~storage unit~~ units selected in the said selection step and the frame data to be coded;

a coding step of coding the frame data to be coded by using the motion vector estimated in the said estimation step; and

an output step of outputting the coded data which is coded in the said coding step.

Claims 14 and 15 (Cancelled).

16. (Currently Amended) A ~~program~~ program, stored on a non-transitory computer-readable storage medium, for implementing control of a motion image coding apparatus which comprises a plurality of storage units for storing a plurality of frame data in a motion image, and codes the motion image by executing motion compensation for frame data to be coded by referring to frame data stored in the plurality of storage units, comprising program codes of:

a detection step of detecting a motion of an imaging device;

a determination step of determining a number of reference frames to be referred when frame data to be coded is coded, wherein, in a case that motion information detected by said detection step is larger than a predetermined value, the number of reference frames is less than the number of reference frames in a case that motion information is equal to or smaller than the predetermined value;

a selection step of selecting, from the plurality of storage units, ~~on the basis of motion information detected in the detection step, a storage unit for storing reference frame data to be referred to when the frame data to be coded is coded;~~ storage units where frame data is stored, according to the number of reference frames determined by said determination step;

an estimation step of estimating a motion vector on the basis of ~~the reference~~ frame data stored in the storage ~~unit~~ units selected in ~~the~~ said selection step and ~~the~~ frame data to be coded;

a coding step of coding the frame data to be coded by using the motion vector estimated in ~~the~~ said estimation step; and

an output step of outputting the coded data which is coded in ~~the~~ said coding step.

Claims 17 and 18 (Cancelled).